

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of playing a card game among two or more players, comprising:
 - providing a plurality of playing cards, wherein each playing card of the plurality of playing cards has a front surface printed with an image depicting one class member of a class of items related to a theme of the card game and an opposing, back surface;
 - dealing a predetermined number of the plurality of playing cards to each player to create a hand of playing cards for each player;
 - in a plurality of rounds, comparing in each round at least one playing card from each player's hand;
 - determining the winner of each round from the comparison, wherein:
 - each player decides which playing card of a round is the best playing card based on the player's subjective opinion about the value of the class member depicted by the image on each playing card;
 - if a majority of players agree which playing card of the round is the best playing card, the player holding the best playing card according to the majority of players wins the round;
 - if a majority of players do not agree which playing card of the round is the best playing card, the players refer to a neutral non-player for a decision, wherein the neutral non-player is to decide which playing card of the round is the best playing card based on the neutral non-player's subjective opinion about the value of the class member depicted by the image on each playing card, and the player holding the best playing card according to the neutral non-player wins the round;
 - if the players refer to a neutral non-player for the decision and a neutral non-party decision cannot be obtained, the players resort to an alternate basis for determining the winner of an undecided round; and
 - declaring a player the winner of the game.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
placing each player's hand in a face-down stack;
simultaneously flipping-over a top playing card of each player's stack to expose the front surface of
each player's top playing card and provide an initial round of playing cards of the plurality
of rounds of playing cards; and
simultaneously flipping-over at least another top playing card of each player's stack to provide at
least another round of playing cards of the plurality of rounds of playing cards.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the player winning a round of playing cards takes
all the playing cards for that round and incorporates them into his or her hand.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein comparing playing cards between players in a
plurality of rounds of playing cards comprises continuing to compare rounds of playing cards until
one player has won enough rounds to take all of the plurality of playing cards, and wherein the one
player taking all of the plurality of playing cards is declared the winner of the game.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein resorting to an alternate basis for determining the
winner of an undecided round comprises:
comparing playing cards between players in at least one additional round of the plurality of rounds
of playing cards;
determining the winner of the at least one additional round; and
declaring the winner of the at least one additional round the winner of the undecided round.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
placing a number of the plurality of playing cards face-down in a draw-stack; and
conducting a drawing phase wherein the players are provided consecutive turns to discard at least
one playing card from their hand into a discard pile and to replace the at least one playing
card from their hand with at least one playing card drawn from the draw-stack or discard
pile.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
continuing the consecutive turns for each player in the drawing phase until the occurrence of a
predetermined event; and
ending the drawing phase upon the occurrence of the predetermined event.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein ending the drawing phase comprises conducting a
predetermined number of consecutive turns for each player.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein ending the drawing phase comprises calling by one
player and providing each of the other players one additional turn to discard at least one playing
card from their hand into a discard pile and to replace the at least one playing card from their hand
with at least one playing card drawn from the draw-stack or discard pile.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
dealing an initial hand of playing cards to each player to provide initial rounds of playing cards of
the plurality of rounds of playing cards; and
dealing at least another hand of playing cards to each player to provide additional rounds of playing
cards of the plurality of rounds of playing cards.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein a player winning a majority of rounds of playing
cards within each hand of playing cards scores a point for that hand.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising splitting a point for a hand when
resorting to an alternate basis for determining the winner of an undecided round in that hand.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising considering a hand a draw when
resorting to an alternate basis for determining the winner of an undecided round in that hand.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein a player scoring the most points after a designated period of play is declared the winner of the game.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein dealing a predetermined number of the plurality of playing cards to each player to create a hand of playing cards for each player comprises dealing a number of playing cards corresponding to a lineup of class members related to the theme of the game.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising laying out the playing cards of each player's hand face down on a playing surface in a pattern that relates to the lineup of the game theme.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
simultaneously flipping-over one playing card of each player's hand to expose the front surface of each playing card and provide an initial round of playing cards of the plurality of rounds of playing cards; and
simultaneously flipping-over at least another playing card of each player's hand to provide at least another round of playing cards of the plurality of rounds of playing cards.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the player winning a round of playing cards scores a point, and a player scoring the most points after a designated period of play is declared the winner of the game.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein a player winning a majority of rounds of playing cards within each hand of playing cards scores a point for that hand.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the front surface of each playing card of the plurality of playing cards is printed with textual information, and further comprising:
using the textual information to determine additional aspects of game play.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein using the textual information to determine additional aspects of game play comprises requiring each player to acquire a hand comprising a specific combination of cards based on the textual information.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein using the textual information to determine additional aspects of game play comprises requiring each player to acquire a hand with each playing card of the hand corresponding to a position in a lineup of class members related to the theme of the game.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the class members depicted on each playing card of the plurality of playing cards comprise members of a sports team.